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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,038	12/11/2003	Theodore W. Houston	TI-35881	8454
23494	7590	05/10/2005	EXAMINER	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999 DALLAS, TX 75265			LE, THONG QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/733,038	HOUSTON, THEODORE W.	
	Examiner Thong Q. Le	Art Unit 2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,7,9,12-15 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5,6,8,10,16,17 and 19-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment filed on 03/08/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-10,12-21 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In Amendments to the Claims section, pages 5-6, the contents of claim 16 are repeated.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-4,7,9,12-15,18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inaba (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,732).

Regarding claim 1, Inaba discloses an SRAM device (Figure 1), comprising:

an SRAM array (3) coupled to row peripheral circuitry (4) by a word line and coupled to column peripheral circuitry (5) by bit lines; and

an array low voltage control circuitry (Figure 1, 2, Column 5, lines 18-27) that provides an enhanced low operating voltage V_{ESS} to said SRAM array during at least a portion of an active mode thereof wherein said array low voltage control circuitry provides said enhanced low operation voltage V_{ESS} at a higher value than a low operation voltage V_{SS} (Column 5, lines 18-26, Column 7, lines 30-48).

Regarding claims 2-4, 7, 9, Inaba discloses wherein said array low voltage control circuitry provides said enhanced low operating voltage V_{ESS} only during a WRITE operation (Column 7, lines 42-48), and wherein said array low voltage control circuitry provides said enhanced low operating voltage V_{ESS} during all of said active mode, and wherein said array low voltage control circuitry provides said enhanced low operating voltage V_{ESS} during all modes (Column 2, lines 1-6), and wherein said array low voltage control circuitry provides said enhanced low operating voltage V_{ESS} at a lower value during a READ operation than during a WRITE operation (Column 2, lines 1-6).

Regarding claims 12-15, 18, the apparatus discussed above would perform the method claims 12-15, 18.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-6, 8, 10, 16-17, 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5-6,8,10,16-17,19-21 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Inaba (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,732), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having an array low voltage control circuitry provides said enhanced low operating voltage V_{ESS} based on a factor selected from the group consisting of: a process corner, a transistor parameter, a mode of operation, and a value of a high supply voltage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoai V. Ho can be reached on 571-272-1777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Thong Q. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

THONG LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER